



**University of Massachusetts  
Departmental Laboratory Safety Coordinators  
MINUTES**

**Laboratory Safety Coordinator Committee Meeting**

**February 27, 2007 @ 9:30 AM**

**Draper Hall room 102**

**Prepared by Maureen O'Leary**

**Present:** Al Rakouskas, Phyllis Berman, Julie Pahl, Tom Spooner, Bruce Krasin, Becky Lawlor, Elizabeth Harlow, Sally Ives, Tom Spooner, Marvin Ellin, Francis Caron, Erika Hamilton, Tony Papirio, Harry Bermudez, and Sherrie Webb-Yagodzinski

**EH&S Staff Present:** Yung Morgan, Terri Bechta, Larry Davis, Judy LaDuc, Chris Coyle, Dennis Gagnon, Glenda Pons, Karen Swiecanski, Don Robinson, and Maureen O'Leary

**Fume Hood Classification System: Don Robinson, EH&S Director**

- \$6,000 has been allocated for fume hood repairs on campus. EH&S along with Facilities and Campus Planning and Physical Plant will be working together to establish a comprehensive fume hood management plan.
- A fume hood classification system will be implemented on campus to determine individual fume hood capabilities. The fume hoods will be classified into three categories AB&C and this will be determined based on the make up air, exhaust and face velocity measurements.
  - ❖ **Class A**=suitable for all type of hood work: mutagens, carcinogens, teratogens, irritants, poisons, strong acids and bases, solvents and flammables
  - ❖ **Class B**=suitable for only routine hood work strong acids and bases, solvents and flammables
  - ❖ **Class C**=suitable for only nuisance odors or moisture removal

**Laboratory Fire Safety: Mike Swain, Fire Prevention Services Supervisor**

- The two biggest fire hazards in a lab are: #1 electrical and #2 the occupants.
- Extension cords are the source of many fires on campus. Low quality extension cords should not be used, only the heavy-duty extensions cords should be purchased.

- New fire alarm systems are being installed all over campus and are very sensitive systems as they can be set off by particulates in the air.
- A recent fire in Morrill involved a drying oven set to 500F and a plastic dish melting causing smoke. The lab was shut down for a week to allow for air testing and soot clean up.
- Another recent fire in a lab was caused when a vacuum pump under a fume hood caught on fire. Again the lab was shut down for a week to allow for clean up and air testing.